THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan forwarded a list of 5 proposals for declaration as new National Highways in the 8th Plan including the roads in a question as detailed in list enclosed as Statement *[see* below]. However, due to constraint of financial resources for national Highways made available in the 8th Plan, it is difficult at this stage to declare any new National Highways in any State including Rajasthan. The matter will be re-examined at the time of mid-term in view of the 8th Plan in case financial allocations for National Highways are increased.

(c) There is no proposal for seeking foreisn assistance for construction of new National Highways as yet.

Statement

List indicating proposals received from Government of Rajasthan for being declared as National Highways.

RAJASTHAN

(in Km)

1. Bikaner - Merta-Ajmer - Bhilwara - Chittorgarh - Ratlam - Indore (from NH45 to NH-3) 455
2. Gurgaon - Alwar - Sariska - Dausa-Savwumadhopur - Shivpuri 270
3. Kosi - Kama - Deeg - Bharatpur - Roopwas - Sepau - Dholpur 140
4. Extension of NH-11. A from Chand-waji (on NH-8) to Chomu (NH-11) and Chomu to Bagru (on NH-8) 75
5. Abu - Udaipur - Chittorgarh - bijolia-Kota - Baran - Shivpuri. 540

Total : 1480

Tiger Population in the Country

*224 DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR :

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the tiger population in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been an alarming rise in tiger poaching in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to curb poaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATO) : (a) A? per 1989 census, the estimated tiger population in the country is 4334.

(b) and (c) No reports of any alarming rise in tiger poaching cases have been received from State wildlife authorities. However, in the case of Ranthamb-hore, the Kumat enquiry report mentioned some evidence of poaching, the extent of which is not yet known. The state governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify petrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

Development of Waterways in Andhra Pradesh

*225. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM : Will the the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's considei ation to widen and improve the Buckingham Canal from Vijayawada to Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any other proposals from Andhra Pradesh to develop the existing inland waterways into navigational canals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF (SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration to widen and improve the Buckingham Canal from Vijayawada to Madras.